

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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WASHINGTON D.C. --- "IN WEST VIRGINIA, AS WELL AS IN OTHER STATES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, SHIPPERS OF RAILROAD FREIGHT HAVE NO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION COMPETITION AVAILABLE TO THEM TO MOVE THEIR GOODS," STATED CON. NICK J. RAHALL, (D-WV), "THEREFORE, THE ECKHARDT-RAHALL AMENDMENT TO HR 7235 (RAIL ACT OF '80) IS ESSENTIAL."

CON. RAHALL, ALONG WITH CON. BOB ECKHARDT (D-TEX), ARE SPONSORING THE AMENDMENT TO BRING ABOUT A NEEDED BALANCE IN THE BILL'S PROVISIONS AFFECTING RAILROAD RATEMAKING AS IT IMPACTS BOTH RAIL CARRIERS AND CAPTIVE SHIPPERS.

"COAL, FOR EXAMPLE," RAHALL EXPLAINED, "AN IMPORTANT DOMESTIC ENERGY RESOURCE AND A HEAVY BULK COMMODITY THAT IS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL SUITED TO MOVEMENT BY RAILROAD, OFTEN HAS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL WENT ON TO SAY, "AT PRESENT, 65 PERCENT OF COAL PRODUCED ANNUALLY IS CARRIED BY RAILROADS, AND 85 PERCENT OF RAILROAD TRAFFIC HAS NO PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE."

"IF HR 7235 WERE ENACTED AS PRESENTLY WRITTEN, RAILROAD COAL TRANSPORTATION RATES COULD BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY ABOUT 35 PERCENT ABOVE 1979 LEVELS, ABOUT \$384 MILLION," RAHALL STRESSED.

"IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE," RAHALL SAID, "THAT WITHOUT THE ECKHARDT-RAHALL AMENDMENT, THE RAIL ACT WOULD BRING ABOUT MASSIVE, INFLATIONARY INCREASES IN COAL AND GRAIN PRICES, AND EVEN REDUCE COMPETITION WITHIN THE RAIL INDUSTRY."

"THE ECKHARDT-RAHALL AMENDMENT WOULD NOT DENY THE RAILROADS WARRANTED REVENUES," RAHALL POINTED OUT, "RATHER, IT WOULD SIMPLY PERMIT ICC REVIEW OF ONLY ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF THE RAILROAD TRAFFIC, INSTEAD OF ELIMINATING ICC JURISDICTION OVER 85 PERCENT OF ALL RAILROAD TRAFFIC."

"ECKHARDT-RAHALL IS THE BALANCED APPROACH," RAHALL SAID, "AND IT SHOULD BE PASSED."